(b) whether Government propose to speed up the development of this new technology in view of the superiority and cost effectiveness of this technology over the earlier gaseous diffusion technique and centrifugal technique which is useful for future nuclear power plants; and

(c) whether such a project has already been undertaken by the Atomic Energy Commission if so, how long it is expected to take to develop this AVILS technology in the research laboratories of BARC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre keeps itself abreast of different types of enrichment methods.

New Indian Airlines Services in Southern Region

*155. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently introduced a few new Indian Airlines services in Southern Region; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Summer Schedule effective 1st June, 1985, Indian Airlines have introduced the following new airlinks in the Southern Region :—

(i) Thrice a week B-737 service on the Madras-Banglore-Ahmedabad Bangalore-Madras sectors; and

(ii) Thrice a week Avro service on the Hyderabad-Pune-Bombay-Pune-Hyderabad sectors.

In addition, a daily B-737 service on the sectors Delhi-Hyderabad-Madras-Hyderabad-Delhi has been introduced and the frequency of the B-737 service on sectors Delhi-Goa-Cochin-Trivandrum and back has been stepped up from four days a week to every day.

Drawbacks in implementation of the IRDP

*156. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have found some drawbacks in implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Evaluation Study undertaken by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission covered 33 districts in 16 States. The sample size of beneficiaries was 1170 and the number of blocks covered 66. The PEO Report has shown that the IRDP programme has had a positive impact on the income and living standards of the beneficiary house-holds surveyed.

One of the more important findings of the Evaluation Report is that out of the 868 sample beneficiary households initially having an annual income of less than Rs. 3,500, 49.42% were able to achieve an annual income level of Rs. 3,500 and above after their coverage under IRDP. It has also shown that the general awarness of the programme was high among the people. Nearly 90% of the selected sample beneficiaries felt that they had benefited from the programme. A little over 88% of the beneficiaries reported that their income had increased as a result of their coverage under IRDP and almost 90% of

them expressed the view that the programme had led to an increase in their family employment. Again about 77% of the selected Sample households stated that their consumption level had increased, and 64% felt that their overall social status in the village had been elevated as a result of their coverage under the programme. Anoher significant finding of the Evaluation Study is that 40% of the Sample beneficiary families belong to the scheduled castes and tribes. Keeping in view the conditions of poverty existing in the rural areas of India, these achievements are substantial

The performance level of the programmes varied from area to area. Some of the major deficiencies noted in the implementation of the programme by the Study are given below.

The Study felt that the administrative and organisational set up at various levels required to be strengthened. Greater attention needed to be given to the placing of competent personnel in various positions, the continuity of tenure of programme functionaries, to training programmes and better supervision and monitoring. Regarding the planning process, the Study emphasised the need for the preparation of perspective plans for each block and district as envisaged in the guidelines and for the integration of these plans with the local plans of the blocks and districts. Regarding selection of beneficiaries the Study found that as many as 25.8 per cent were ineligible as they already belonged to the income group of Rs. 3,500 and above and stressed the need for proper identification of beneficiary families. It was also found that only 15.2% of the beneficiaries belonged to the income group of Rs. 1500 and less. Some anomalies in the functioning of financial institutions, in matters such as adjustment of the subsiy amount, security from beneficiaries and the norms of repayment were also observed and the Report felt there was a need to introduce suitable procedures to eliminate them. Another finding of the Report was the over-emphasis on assistance for schemes in the primary sector. As many as 75 per cent of sample beneficiaries were from the primary sector, only 8 per cent from the secondary sector and 17 per cent from the tertiary sector. The need was stressed for having a shelf of baukable schemes suitable for different areas and conditions taking into account variations in infrastructure, marketing facilities etc.

The drawbacks in the implementation of IRDP high-lighted in the Evaluation Report are being taken into account by the Government in its efforts to improve and strengthen the programme.

Recommendations of the panel to Study the Sri Lanka refugee problem

*157. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level panel visited Rameswaram to study the Sri Lanka refugee problem;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) I and senior officers of the Ministry visited Rameswaram as well as Mandapam camp to ensure that relief measures are being extened satisfactorily to the refugees.

(b) and (c) Adequate and timely relief measures including cash doles, subsidised rations, consumer articles, medical facilties, etc. are being extended to the refugees in the camp. Th inmates expressed satisfaction at the relief arrangements.